

We claim:

1. A process for reducing the concentration of MEHQ in acrylic acid which has been from 75% to 105% neutralized, by continuous adsorption on activated carbon.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acrylic acid has been from 90% to 103% neutralized.
3. A process as claimed in either of claims 1 or 2, wherein the acrylic acid has been from 95% to 101% neutralized.
4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the acrylic acid has been from 98% to 100% neutralized.
5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the continuous adsorption is carried out on a fixed bed.
6. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the continuous adsorption is carried out in one or more columns which have been filled with activated carbon.
7. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, which is carried out at temperatures between 0°C and 30°C, in particular between 3°C and 20°C.
8. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, wherein 90% by weight of the activated carbon has a particle size between 350  $\mu\text{m}$  and 1800  $\mu\text{m}$ .
9. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the activated carbon has been acid-treated.
10. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the activated carbon has a specific surface area of from 900 to 1100  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ .
11. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10, wherein the activated carbon has a density between 400  $\text{g/l}$  and 500  $\text{g/l}$ .
12. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the concentration of MEHQ in acrylic acid is reduced by at least 50%, preferably at least 75%, in particular at least 90%.

13. A process for preparing superabsorbents, including the step of optionally combining neutralized acrylic acid whose MEHQ content has been reduced according to any of the preceding claims with less neutralized, in particular nonneutralized, acrylic acid, subsequently polymerizing and optionally surface postcrosslinking.

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14. The use of superabsorbents which have been prepared according to claim 13 in hygiene articles.